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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
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R 200330Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8921
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANGMAI
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0087

STATE PLEASE PASS DON FIELD - BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND
PACIFIC AFFAIRS

INFO ADDRESSEES PLEASE PASS NARCOTICS COORDINATORS AND DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR XE
SUBJECT: 1978 EA REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE: " NARCOTICS
INTELLIGENCE" WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION: THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
OF THE "NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP" WHICH CONVENED
JANUARY 11 AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SINGAPORE AS PART OOOO
THE 1978 EA REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE. END INTRODUCTION.

1. THE WORKSHOP

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF TWO "NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE"
WORKSHOPS CONVENED AT 1345 HOURS, JANUARY 11, AT THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY SINGAPORE. PANELISTS FOR THE WORKSHOP
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WERE: ED BARRON, NARCOTICS ANALYST FOR THE BUREAU OF
EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS: AND JON WIANT, INTELLI-
GENCE ANALYST FOR THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
INCLUDED DEPARTMENT AND DEA OFFICIALS FROM MEDAN, PORT
MORESBY, CHIANG MAI, SEOUL, VIENTIANE, AND WASHINGTON.

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2. OPENING PANEL PRESENTATION

IN GENERAL, PANELISTS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO IMPROVE RAW NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS. ONE PANELIST OBSERVED THAT NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE COVERAGE HAD "FALLEN OFF" IN RECENT YEARS AND COMMENTED THAT NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE COLLECTORS APPEARED TO BE RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON RECENT TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS IN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND WERE WRONGLY FORSAKING TRADITIONAL INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ACTIVITIES.
ONE PANELIST ARGUED THAT THE EFFORT TO HALT ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED SIMPLISTICALLY AS A "WAS ON NARCOTICS" BECAUSE A WAR PRESUPPOSES THAT THERE WAS AN ULTIMATE ACHIEVABLE OBJECTIVE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE COULD BE NO "FINAL VICTORY" IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS SO LONG AS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING REMAINED PROFITABLE TO CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. HE SAID THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO SUPPRESS TRAFFICKING AMOUNTED TO A CONTAINMENT EFFORT ENTAILING A GREAT DEAL OF POLICE WORK BASED ON GOOD INTELLIGENCE. SINCE THE TARGETS OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES WERE NOT GOVERNMENTS BUT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ELEMENTS THAT OPERATED ACROSS INTERNATIONAL FRONTIERS, MANY INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ACTIVITIES WHICH NORMALLY WERE GEARED TO GATHERING NATIONAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAD TO BE RE-ORIENTED TO
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SERVE POLICE-WORK TYPE INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS.

3. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF "TACTICAL" AND "STRATEGIC" INTELLIGENCE

PANELISTS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE COMPETING REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLECTION OF STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL (OR POLICE) NARCOTIC INTELLIGENCE. SEVERAL POSTS NOTED THAT THEIR RESOURCES WERE ALREADY STRETCHED EXTREMELY THIN IN PURSUIT OF TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE RELATED TO ACTUAL SEIZURES AND ARRESTS, AND THAT INFORMATION GATHERED FOR AND DERIVED FROM SUCH LOCAL POLICE OPERATIONS WAS OFTEN OF ONLY MARGINAL STRATEGIC VALUE. IT APPEARED FROM THE DISCUSSION THAT POSTS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, HOWEVER, POSSIBLY COULD FOCUS GREATER EFFORT ON THE COLLECION OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE SUCH AS ASCERTAINING THE ATTITUDES OF KEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOWARD NARCOTICS CONTROL MEASURES AND IN REPORTING LOCAL MARKET CONDITIONS FOR ILLICIT NARCOTICS. PANELISTS, COMMENTING FROM HE PERSPECTIVE OF INTELLIGENCE USERS, STRESSED THAT EVEN SMALL BITS OF SUCH MARKET DATA COULD BE

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HELPFUL IN TRACING NARCOTICS ROUUES, A PRIMARY OBJEC-
TIVE OF NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS.

4. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION: COORDINATING NARCOTICS CONCERNS
WITH PROGRAMMATIC CONCERNS

ONE PANELIST EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT NARCOTICS INTELLI-
GENCE SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO FUNCTIONAL CONCERNS AND
ANALYSIS BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO PROGRAMMA-
TIC CONCERNS AT EACH POST. AS EXAMPLES HE NOTED THAT
THE USE OF HERBICIDES TO CONTROL OPIUM POPPY CROPPING
HAD SERIOUS POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. IT WAS ALSO NOTED
THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES TOWARD PRODUCTION AND
USAGE OF NARCOTICS AND TOWARD U.S. NARCOTICS CONTROL
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ACTIVITIES HAD DIRECT BEARINGS ON THE STATUS OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. IN
THIS VEIN, A PANELIST COMMENTED THAT MAKING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MORE SENSITIVE TO NARCOTICS CON-
TROL CONCERNS SHOULD BE A MISSION-WIDE RESPONSIBILITY,
ESPECIALLY INCLUDING RELIANCE ON USIS UNITS.

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INFO ADDRESSEES PLEASE PASS NARCOTICS COORDINATORS AND DEA

THE PANELISTS NOTED THAT NARCOTICS COORDINATORS OUTSIDE
OF PRIMARY NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING AREAS
SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ANY LOCATION COULD BECOME A SOURCE
OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION, REFINING, OR TRAFFICK-
ING AS A RESULT OF CONTROL EFFORTS OR MARKET CONDITIONS
IN THE MORE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF NARCOTICS ACTIVITY.
SUCH TRENDS COULD BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE PERIODIC
MONITORING OF ILLICIT NARCOTIC MARKET ACTIVITY, OR BY
NOTING THE ARRIVAL OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS.
CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE WARNED TO TAKE NOTE OF
APPARENTLY POOR LOCAL CITIZENS SEEKING TO TRAVEL TO THE
UNITED STATES AND HOLDING PRE-PAID TICKETS.

5. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD:

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WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS FROM THE FIELD NOTED DEVELOPMENTS
IN THEIR AREAS: AT CHIANGMAI, THERE WAS A DANGER THAT
TOURIST PROMOTION IN RURAL AREAS ALONG THE THAI-BURMESE
BORDER MIGHT SPAWN AMATEUR TRAFFICKERS OR ENCOURAGE
KNOWN TRAFFICKING RINGS TO SUBORN TOURISTS AS CARRIERS
OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS. THE SEOUL NARCOTICS COORDINATION
NOTED THAT THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF U.S.
TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA PRESENTED CONTINUING NARCOTICS
ABUSE CONCERNS FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY. PARTICIPANTS FROM
TOKYO NOTED THAT THE JAPANESE WERE BECOMING CONCERNED
THAT JAPAN MIGHT BE BECOMING A VICTIM COJNTRY AND THAT
THE JAPANESE WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREE-
MENT WITH THE ROK REGARDING THE PRODIUCTION AND SHIPMENT
OF AMPHETAMINES FROM SOUTH KOREA TO JAPAN. THE MEDAN
PARTICIPANT SAID THAT SHE WAS BEGINNING TO RECEIVE GOOD
INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION FROM MALAYSIAN SOURCES ON
NARCOTICS MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA. THE NARCOTICS COOR-
DINATOR IN PORT MORESBY COMMENTED THAT THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT PORT
MORESBY MIGHT BE USED AS A POINT ON A TRAFFICKING
ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA. THE VIENTIANE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR
NOTED CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OFO
THE RECENTLY SIGNED LPDR-UNFDAC AGREEMENT ON NARCOTICS
CONTROL AND SAID THAT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE LPDR
WAS INVOLVED IN ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION AND
SALES. HE AASO REPORTED THAT UNFDAC WAS CONSIDERING
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE SRV.

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THE WORKSHOP CONCLUDED ITS SESSION AT 1530, JANUARY 11.
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